

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /071 W

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R 021102Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8631

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, GB

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GABON TO LEAVE AIR AFRIQUE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BONGO ANNOUNCED TO NATION DECEMBER 1  
GOG DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM AIR AFRIQUE AND EXPAND AIR  
GABON INTO INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TV ADDRESS TO NATION EVENING DECEMBER 1, GABONESE  
PRESIDENT BONGO ANNOUNCED GOG DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM  
AIR AFRIQUE AND TO EXPAND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS OF AIR  
GABON.

2. PRESIDENT SAID DECISION WAS TAKEN BY GOG AS MEANS OF  
AFFIRMING ITS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, AND NOT IN PIQUE AT  
FAILURE OBTAIN SENIOR POSTS WITHIN AIR AFRIQUE ORGANIZATION.

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PRESIDENT ALSO DENIED THAT GOG DECISION WAS CONTRARY TO

"AFRICAN SOLIDARITY" OR REPRESENTED "ANTI-AFRICAN" ACTION  
BECAUSE OF FACT THAT 40PCT OF AIR GABON CAPITAL WILL HENCEFORTH  
BE HELD BY FOREIGN COMPANIES.

3. BONGO PAID HOMAGE TO PRESIDENTS MOBUTU OF ZAIRE AND  
AHIDJO OF COMEROON FOR THEIR EARLIER DECISIONS TO AFFIRM NATION-  
ALINDEPENDENCE BY CREATING THEIR OWN AIRLINES.  
PRESIDENT ALLEGED THAT GABONESE DECISION, LIKE THAT OF  
OTHER PRESIDENTS WHO HAD TAKEN SAME ROAD, WOULD IN EFFECT  
STRENGTHEN GENUINE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY SINCE GOG MAINTAINS  
TIES OF BROTHERHOOD WITH ALL AIR AFRIQUE MEMBER STATES.

4. BONGO INCLUDED IN HIS SPEECH GENERAL STATEMENT THAT  
AIR GABON WILL " VERY SOON OBTAIN CERTAIN NUMBER OF LARGE  
AIRCRAFT" TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING FLEET, BUT OFFERED NO  
DETAILS. HE AFFIRMED THAT AIR GABON IS ONE OF BEST  
EQUIPPED NATIONAL COMPANIES IN DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND THAT  
NEW AIRLINE WILL OCCUPY "HONORABLE, EVEN ENVIABLE POSITION"  
AMONG AFIRCAN NATIONAL CARRIERS.

5. IN CONCLUDING, PRESIDENT STIPULATED THAT GOG WILL  
RESPECT STATUTORY PROVISIONS OF AIR AFRIQUE AGREEMENT,  
SO THAT WITHDRAWAL WILL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE FOR SIX MONTHS.  
END UNCLASSIFIED - BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENTS DECISION SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE  
TO AIR AFRIQUE MANAGEMENT OR ANYONE ELSE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE  
AFRICA WHOS HAS BEEN READING JEUNE AFRIQUE AND OTHER INFORMED  
PRESS ORGANS. TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT PRESUMABLE REFLECTS  
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED LAST WEEK IN  
PARIS BY PRESIDENTS CABINET DIRECTOR MAYILA, WHO SPENT  
WEEK DISCUSSING AIR GABON SITUATION WITH GOF, AIR FRANCE,  
UTA AND BOEING. INTENTION OF STARTING AIR GABON  
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS ON JUNE 1, EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
GOG WITHDRAWAL FROM AIR AFRIQUE, PUTS ALL INVOLVED UNDER  
CONSIDERABLE TIME PRESSURE, BUT FRENCH PARTNERS HAVE  
EVIDENTLY OFFERED NECESSARY ASSURANCES.

7. FOR ROME : WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING INFO PARAS 1-5  
ABOVE TO JEAN-PAUL MAUGER AT BOEING OFFICE IN ROME. STEIGMAN  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, AIRLINES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760447-0194  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: GABON TO LEAVE AIR AFRIQUE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BONGO ANNOUNCED TO NATION DECE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, GB, AIR AFRIQUE, AIR GABON, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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